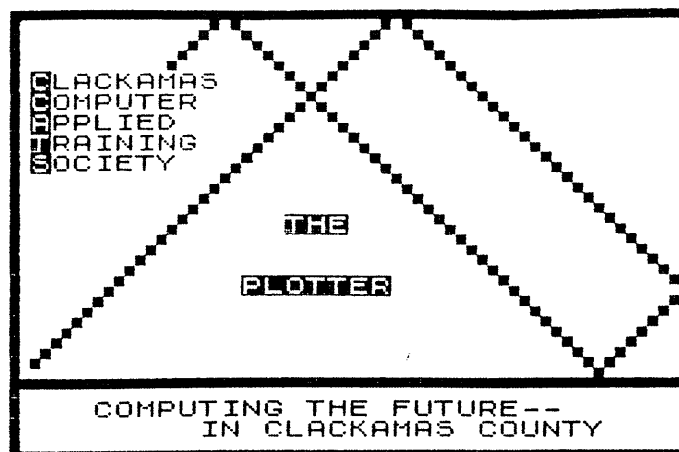


THE PLOTTER

VOLUME 10 ** NUMBER 1

 JANUARY 1992



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| EDITED BY: | DICK WAGNER |
| CHAIRMAN: | JACK ARMSTRONG |
| V/CHAIRMAN: | ROD GOWEN |
| SECRETARY: | DICK WAGNER |
| TREASURER: | ROD GOWEN |
| PR OFFICER: | BOB EVANS |
| LIBRARIANS: | BILL DUNLOP |
| | ALICE DUNLOP |

MEETING open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL BANK
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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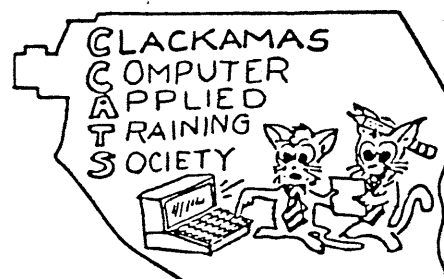
The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by chairman Jack Armstrong at Far West Federal Bank. There were nine members in attendance.

Under old business, the question of raising the dues to \$20.00 to help to compensate for our low membership was business carried over from the November meeting. A motion was made and approved to increase the dues to \$20.00 for 1992.

Some discussion followed on possible ways to reduce overhead. As our newsletter is the major expense it was pointed out that income is made up of membership dues and subscriptions which must pay for publishing and mailing plus paying for user group exchanges.

Other old business included further discussion of possible meeting places should the Bank room no longer be available. Bob Gerow thought we should make definite plans to use the Clackamas Community College facilities if we could be assured that space would be available in the summer months. This brought out the basis of our current

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Continued from Page 1

meeting time. Rod mentioned that the second Friday of each month was to help certain members, no longer with the group, to attend. This seems to warrant a review of meeting time based on the college room availability. When we met there before, rooms were not available in the summer on Friday nights. If we need to change meeting times, perhaps to Thursdays, it also might be possible to find a time more helpful to most members.

Rod Gowen will pursue the options at Clackamas Community College, considering the length of the meetings, rooms with ample electrical outlets, and meeting date.

Jack read some excerpts from a recent Toronto news letter, in which George Chambers described the activities of the major user groups who publish news letters. Our The Plotter newsletters was nicely mentioned and we thank the Toronto group for this.

Election of the chairman was called for, Jack Armstrong and Raymond Merlin having been nominated at the last meeting. Raymond received two votes (one from an absent member), and Jack received 8 votes. In the November meeting Rod Gowen volunteered to be Vice Chairman and Dick Wagner offered to continue as Secretary.

As part of the meeting, the 9 members present divided into 3 groups to review the contents of our 9 years of news letter issues, each group taking 3 years to review. By 9:20 we had completed reviewing and making recommendations for programs, articles, and tips for our projected "The Best Of". The meeting was adjourned at this time.

Dick Wagner
Secretary

BITS & BYTES

by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader, in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fits this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

HAPPY 1992 TO ALL!

Well folks! Here we go! Into a new year! Does it seem possible to you? I am glad that 1991 went by fast, but am sorry that more was not accomplished in the TS community to keep things alive during the past 12 months. This has always been a slow-moving section of the computer arena, but 1991 seems to have signaled even slower activity. We can only hope that 1992 will bring a resurgence of interest and activity. We can only hope!

ELECTION ARE OVER-----:

We held our annual elections at the December meeting and the outcome was probably known before we met. JACK ARMSTRONG is once again to head our little group of hardy (and die-hard) TSers for another year. With all other posts having been filled on a voluntary basis, there was no need to elect any other officers. The only other item on the ballot this year was the raise in dues, to ensue THE PLOTTER's existence for another year, from \$15 per family to \$20 per family. This was passed unanimously. Now, if subscriptions stay the same as 1991, we will have no fear of losing our newsletter for another year at least. If anyone reading this newsletter would like to subscribe, send \$12 to: RMG ENTERPRISES, 1419 1/2 7TH STREET, OREGON CITY, OR 97045. Make the check payable to RMG ENTERPRISES and you will soon be receiving THE PLOTTER on a regular basis. There are usually 11 issues per year.

T/SNUG NEWS-

No news on this front for another
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Continued from page 2

month. I certainly hate to entertain the horrible thought that perhaps I have once again been "taken" and will not see or hear anything once I have paid my money out. I am sorry to act as devil's advocate, but we CANNOT afford go through this again. It would be just about the last straw for the TS world as we know it. All credibility would be gone forever. If you guys (Bob and Don) happen to be reading this and if you have a legitimate explanation, please know that I am still behind you 100% and will continue to be. Just do us a big favor: KEEP US INFORMED!! We cannot be expected to sit out here and wait forever with no thought of what is going on. We hope to see news as well as a newsletter when due. If it is in the works and possibly on its way, THANKS.

RMG NEWS:

RMG ENTERPRISES has closed out its 10th year in the business of supplying TS users and will continue to do so as long as there is a TS user out there and they have something the user might need! Not all products are always available, but if you are in need of something for your TS hobby or even for your IBM clone, why not drop a line? A business sized S.A.S.E. with your inquiry will get you a much quicker response. It will also get you a price list for the computer of your choice.

"THE BEST OF"-PROJECT:

The project continues--- At the December meeting we spent some time working on the "BEST OF THE PLOTTER" project. Dick Wagner brought a complete set of all back issues of the newsletter and after the business portion of the meeting, we split up into groups, each group working through several years issues and scanned them for items that might possibly be included in the book. At the next meeting we will see a narrowed down list which we will attempt to narrow down further. This is going to be a real group effort. Why not come over and join in? who have back issues of THE PLOTTER go through them and compile a short list of articles, programs, reviews or anything else that is

ORIGINAL to the group. No reprints will be considered for inclusion. Turn them in at a meeting or mail them to us at the address on the back of this newsletter. Thanks!

GENEALOGY--

Is a subject of much interest these days. Are you interested? If so, you will not want to miss our February meeting. Gaylen Bench has agreed to give us a demonstration of the PAF software used to access and use genealogy data from the LDS church in Salt Lake City as well as many local LDS libraries around the country. The main library now consists of over 50 CD-ROM disks each of which can contain up to 600 MEGABYTES of information! This data is available for computer access at an Oregon City phone number if you have the correct information and software to use. Gaylen will be telling us all about it. Why not come out and see? Bring a friend if you like.

That's it for now!
See you next time. . .

DISK ERRORS

According to PC WORLD magazine, disk errors may be due to a slightly bent disk jacket causing some binding and slow disk operation. If such an error occurs, take a look at the jacket to see if it is dished. If the jacket can be properly flattened it will bulge slightly on both sides and the disk will spin smoothly.

The method to get the proper jacket shape is to grasp the opposite (not diagonal) corners with the dished or bent side down. Press the jacket lightly on a desk or table straight edge and draw the jacket across the edge, the jacket having a slight curvature from the pressure. Be particularly careful of the disk window, the write protect slot, and the 2 notches near the disk window. Do this with both sides and the jacket should loosen enough to allow the disk to spin easily.

OUR NEW HOME--

As you may have read last time, we are in danger of losing our meeting room due the fact that Far West Bank is currently being run by the government and is being sold. If and when it is sold it may or may not be sold to another bank. If it is, there is no guarantee that the new owners will offer the facilities for use as a community room. Rather than wait for the proverbial "axe" to fall, it was decided to look for a new home at once and make the move as soon as possible.

We printed a list of possibilities last month. None of those seemed to be exactly what we wanted. As almost an after-thought, I decided to check in with CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE. Up until about 5 years ago we had met on the CCC campus. Our reason for moving was the simple fact that at that time, the school closed early on Friday afternoons during the summer. As we wanted to meet on the second Friday of the month, this did not work out and so the move. It seems that now the college has grown to the point where they no longer close early on Fridays so we can again meet there and the price is exactly what we can afford--- NOTHING!

As of now, we are booked in for the months of February and March for the use of ROOM 112 in BARLOW HALL near the center of the campus. We have the room from 7-10 PM on Feb. 14th and March 13th. We are including a copy of the campus map with the proper spot noted for your convenience. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 655-7484 between 2 and 10 PM Tue-Sat.

Hope you all make it!

OUR NEW HOME

This area map shows the access to Oregon City from various highways. Clackamas Community College is shown relative to Highway #213, which intersects Highway #205 at the Park Place exit #10.

Rod Gowen's map shows the access to Clackamas Community College relative to the highways. Approach it either from Molalla Ave. and Molalla Highway, or Beaver Creek Rd. Reach Barlow Hall parking by (1), enter on Molalla Ave. where a stop light is located for the I-205 Bypass (Hwy #213). This would be the route for those coming through Oregon City and up 7th St. as if going to Rod's house. At the Beaver Creek Rd. "Y", keep to the right on Molalla Ave. After entering the campus, take the right hand road at the first "Y" to South Douglas Loop. Follow this road to the entrance to Barlow Hall parking. Park near the right hand wing entrance for Room #112.

(2), turning off of I-205 at the Beaver Creek/Park Place exit #10. If coming from the north on I-205, this is the exit after the Gladstone exit. Then up the hill (Hwy #213) to the 3rd stop light. Turn left here (at Berry Hill Shopping Center) and continue until the Clackamas Community College is seen on the right (about 1/2 mile). Turn right on Clairmont Drive to the first stop sign. Make a left turn here and follow South Douglas Loop to Killdeer Rd. A right on Killdeer Rd. puts you into the Barlow Hall parking area. Park near the right wing which is the entrance to room #112.

Those coming from the west on Hwy I-205, take the first exit (exit #10) after passing the Oregon City exit to McLoughlin. Then follow the directions as for coming from the north on I-205.

If it is a foggy night or poor visibility, watch your speed up bypass 213 as there have been accidents caused by deer in the road, particularly near the upper stop light.

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Campus Map

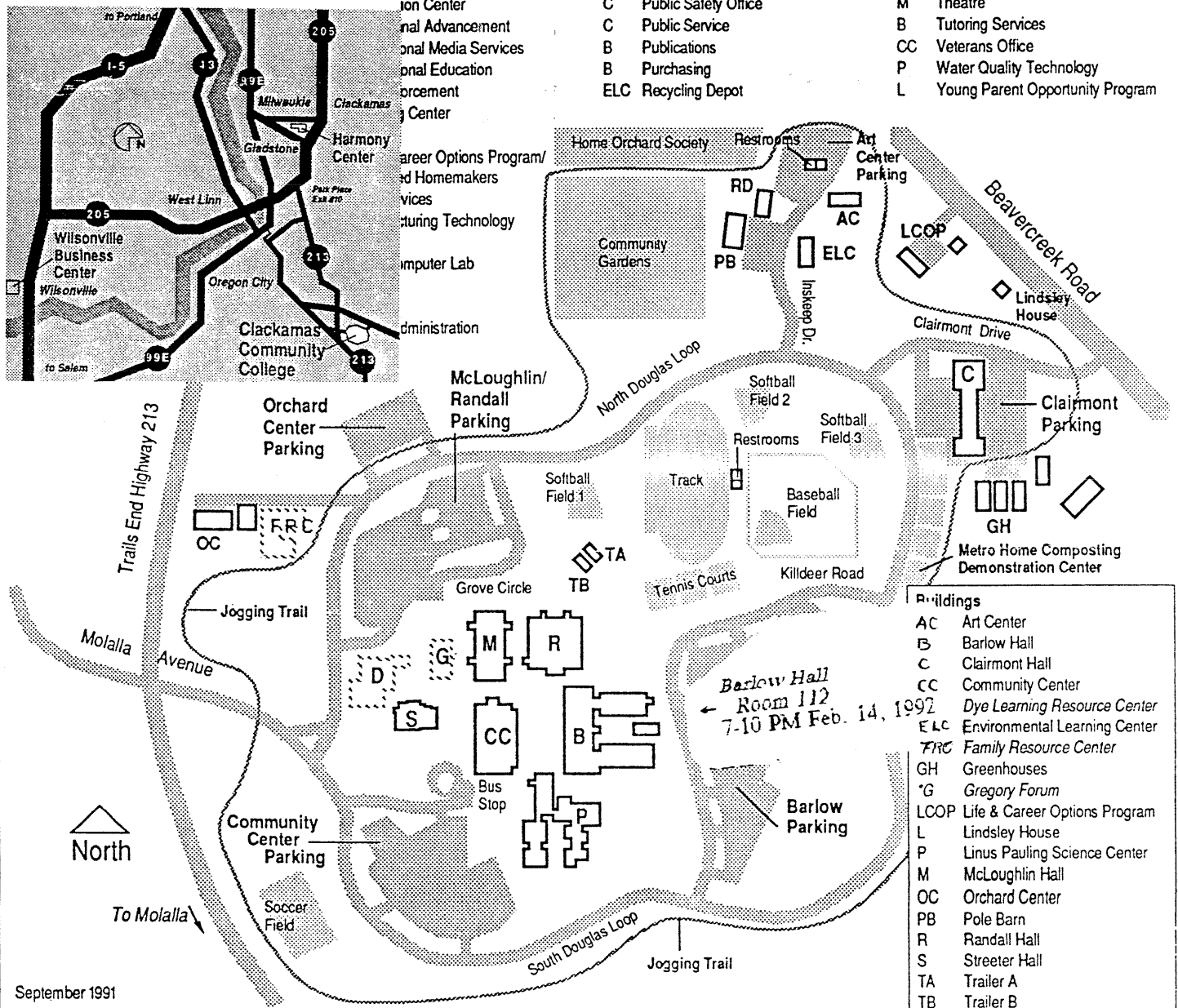
Departments & Offices

B ABE/GED
B Administration
CC Admissions and Registration
B Apprenticeship Program
AC Art
CC Assessment/Counseling
R Athletics
B Automotive
M Bookstore
M Business Administration
B Business Office

ELC Environmental Learning Center
CC Evening & Saturday Office
M Family & Human Services
CC Financial Aid
CC Food Service
B Foundation Office
R Game Room
CC Graduation Evaluation
R Gym
CC Health Information
B Human Resources/Personnel
B Industrial Programs

C Ornamental Horticulture
B Parts Merchandising
P Linus Pauling Center Gallery
B Personnel
R Physical Education
B Physical Plant Operations
B Plant Services
B President's Office
TB The PRINT Newspaper
C Printing Office
B Professional Skills Training Program
B Public Information
C Public Safety Office
C Public Service
B Publications
B Purchasing
ELC Recycling Depot

B Research Office
P Science
C Shipping & Receiving
B Social Science
M Speech
CC Student Activities
CC Student Government
B Student Loans
TB Student Publications
B Telecommunications
M Telecourses
CC Testing Office
M Theatre
B Tutoring Services
CC Veterans Office
P Water Quality Technology
L Young Parent Opportunity Program



September 1991

*under construction

CERTIFICATES

Maybe the reader has a certificate printing program but imagination fails when a special one would be desirable to have. Here is an example of a personalized gift certificate that was received this Christmas. Unless the reader has a printer of high resolution capability plus a suitable printer driver such as my Son has on his Macintosh computer, your efforts may not be quite as smooth as this example. The certificate originally is 4 5/8 x 7 1/2 inches to the outside lines. This example was reduced 23 % to fit it to column width.

Dick Wagner

CERTIFICATE

This certificate entitles the bearer, Dick Wagner, to one (1) specially chosen computer book from the extensive resources of Corvallis quality new and used bookstores. Said "computer book" will be carefully chosen after Christmas Day consultation and expediently delivered.

Signed:

STRING\$ FUNCTION

BASICS such as GWBASIC, BASICS, and others offer the STRING\$ function. This function duplicates a character a defined number of times in a line, such as 30 graphic characters, 20 asterisks, etc. The function would be used as:

```
150 PRINT STRING$ (30,143): REM 143
    is code for graphic sqr.
160 PRINT STRING$ (20,"*"): REM
    character may be in quotes
```

As Sinclair BASIC does not include this function, as handy as it appears to be, there is a way to simulate STRING\$ for the TS 1000, 1500, and 2068. Develop a subroutine something like the following to get it out of the main program:

```
2399 LET T$=""
2310 FOR M=1 TO 20
2320 LET T$=T$+"*"
2330 NEXT M
2340 LET A$=T$
2350 RETURN
```

ZX-91

ZX is a ZX-81 publication, based on 10 years of experience by the author ANDRE BAUNE. In format it is 3 columns each side of a 8 1/2 X 11 sheet. This is folded in thirds, presto, 6 pages.

Next month Andre is producing a 12 page issue. Content this time is several graphics, a car racing program, and an explanation of his efforts. He hopes to produce for at least a year.

Andre's offer is simple--If you wish to receive a print-out, a cassette, an information, a reply or the next month issue of this newsletter send a self-addressed envelope (business size) to: ANDRE BAUNE

304 SCOTT
CHATEAUGUARY, QUEBEC
CANADA J6J 4H5

Is suggested that readers request issue #1 to obtain current information.

the plotter

pc page

MS-DOS TIPS

Some times it is nice to check the printer operation, particularly if the reader is one to use a lot of switches and cables to connect various computers and printers. There is a very easy test for parallel printer operation. Just key in this line following the DOS prompt:

```
ECHO This is a printer test in parallel operation>PRN
```

This will print out the message.

Of course, the LPRINT method works like the 2068 computer.

```
LPRINT" This is a printer test in parallel operation";  
CHR$(12);
```

Serial printer testing is also simple but it requires the use of MODE in MS-DOS direactory. Key in these 3 lines in direct mode:

```
MODE COM1:9600,N,8,1,P  
MODE LPT1:=COM 1 (or the appropriate COM port in use)  
ECHO This is a printer test in serial operation>PRN
```

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

*** * * ***

\$.50 / LINE
\$ 5.00 / 1/4 PAGE
\$ 8.00 / 1/2 PAGE
\$ 15.00 / FULL PAGE

ALL AD COPY MUST BE IN BY
THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR
TO THE MONTH AD IS TO RUN.

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EXPIRES: 12/92
HOWARD CHEGWIDDEN
2 STEPHEN ST.
DOVER, NJ 07801
ML/PD: 12/92